

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 070514
ORIGIN EUR-02

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EA-02 /005 R

66011

DRAFTED BY EUR/RPE:JAPOLANSKY JR RP

APPROVED BY EUR/RPE:DHSWARTZ

EA/PHL:JSARTORIOUS

EUR/RPM:TSAVAGE

EUR/EE:SFROMOWITZ

-----011931Z 014580 /41

R 302250Z MAR 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO USMISSION NATO 9363

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 070514

FOL RPT MANILA 3529 ACTION SECSTATE INFO PRAGUE
DATED 10 MAR 77

QUOTE: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MANILA 3529

E O 11652: NA

TAGS: ETRD, RP, CZ

SUBJ: PHILIPPINE/CZECHOSLOVAK TRADE AGREEMENT SIGNED MARCH 9

1. PHILIPPINE TRADE SECRETARY TROADIO T. QUIAZON, JR.
AND CZECH MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE ANDREJ BARCAK SIGNED
A TRADE AGREEMENT MARCH 9 IN MANILA DEFINING A FRAMEWORK
FOR PRODUCT EXCHANGES AND CONTAINING A MOST-FAVORED-
NATION CLAUSE. ACCORDING TO THE OFFICIAL PHILIPPINE
NEWS AGENCY, CZECHOSLOVAKIA ACKNOWLEDGED IN THE AGREEMENT
ITS COMMITMENT IN UNCTAD TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A
GSP SCHEME FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, INCLUDING THE
PHILIPPINES.

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2. ACCOMPANYING CZECHOSLOVAK MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE
WERE VLADIMIR KIRSBAUM, A DIRECTOR OF THE MINISTRY
OF FOREIGN TRADE, AND DR. V. HEJKRLIK, A REPRESENTA-
TIVE OF THE CZECHOSLOVAKIA IMPORT-EXPORT CORPORATION
BASED IN SINGAPORE. THIS OFFICIAL MISSION WAS
PRECEDED BY A 12-MAN TRADE MISSION IN JANUARY HEADED
BY LUDVIK CERNY, PRESIDENT OF THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA, WHO SIGNED TWO AGREEMENTS ON COOPERATION WITH THE PHILIPPINE CHAMBER OF INDUSTRIES AND THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF THE PHILIPPINES.

3. TRADE BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES IS VERY SMALL BUT GROWING, IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA'S FAVOR. THE CZECHOSLOVAKS EXPORTED SLIGHTLY UNDER ONE MILLION DOLLARS IN 1974, OVER ONE MILLION DOLLARS IN 1975 AND \$3.5 MILLION IN 1976. THE BULK OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK EXPORTS CONSISTED OF MACHINERY OTHER THAN ELECTRIC, BUT ALSO INCLUDED FERTILIZER. THE PHILIPPINES SOLD PRACTICALLY NOTHING UNTIL 1976 WHEN IT EXPORTED \$330,750 WORTH OF COCONUT OIL THROUGH SINGAPORE.

4. ALTHOUGH THE GOP IS INTERESTED IN SELLING MORE TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA, THE DISTANCE INVOLVED AND THE NATURE OF PHILIPPINE EXPORTS DO NOT AUGUR PROMISING RESULTS. THE MAIN SIGNIFICANCE OF THE AGREEMENT LIES IN THE GOP POLICY OF DEVELOPING RELATIONS WITH THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES. THE AGREEMENT WITH CZECHOSLOVAKIA THUS FOLLOWS THOSE WITH POLAND ON FEBRUARY 12, 1975, ROMANIA ON APRIL 19, 1975, BULGARIA ON MAY 2, 1975, THE SOVIET UNION ON JUNE 2, 1976, AND HUNGARY ON OCTOBER 14, 1976. THE TRADE AGREEMENT WITH THE PRC WAS SIGNED ON JUNE 9, 1975 IN PEKING. SULLIVAN UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TRADE AGREEMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 30-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE070514
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JAPOLANSKY JR RP
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770113-0413
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977035/aaaaaelv.tel
Line Count: 88
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e41f7db6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3080303
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PHILIPPINE/CZECHOSLOVAK TRADE AGREEMENT SIGNED MARCH 9
TAGS: ETRD, RP, CZ
To: NATO BRUSSELS
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e41f7db6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009